

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

apply, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, dimensional weight calculation rules for each of a plurality of carriers to a set of parcel specifications for a particular parcel input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

2. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

identify, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, each carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a particular parcel wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics, wherein said set of parcel characteristics translate into a particular calculated dimensional weight according to dimensional weight calculation rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

3. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

calculate, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, a dimensional weight for a particular parcel for each carrier from a plurality of carriers according to dimensional weight calculation rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global

1 communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device
2 having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

3
4 4. The shipping management computer system of Claim 3, said shipping
5 management computer system further programmed to:
6 compare the calculated dimensional weight of the particular parcel calculated for each
7 carrier to a set of dimensional weight limitations for the carrier;
8 identify as a supporting carrier each carrier for which the calculated dimensional
9 weight of the particular parcel calculated for the carrier does not exceed a set of dimensional
10 weight limitations for the carrier.

11
12 5. The shipping management computer system of Claim 4, said shipping
13 management computer system further programmed to:
14 calculate for each of a plurality of services offered by each supporting carrier a
15 shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel.

16
17 6. The shipping management computer system of Claim 5, said shipping
18 management computer system further programmed to:
19 calculate the shipping rate for the particular parcel for each service offered by each
20 supporting carrier according to a set of parcel shipping pricing rules for each particular
21 service offered by the particular supporting carrier as applied to the set of parcel
22 specifications and to the calculated dimensional weight for the particular parcel and as
23 applied to an origin zip code and an exemplary destination zip code input by the particular
24 user.

25
26 7. The shipping management computer system of Claim 6, said shipping
27 management computer system further programmed to:
28 generate an online comparison display of the calculated shipping rates to a display
29 monitor configured with the client computer device of the particular user.

1
2 8. A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of
3 parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:
4 applying, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users,
5 dimensional weight calculation rules for each of a plurality of carriers to a set of parcel
6 specifications for a particular parcel input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user
7 accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer
8 device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the
9 global communications network.

10
11 9. A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of
12 parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:
13 identifying, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, each
14 carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a particular parcel wherein the
15 particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics, wherein said set of parcel
16 characteristics translate into a particular calculated dimensional weight according to
17 dimensional weight calculation rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein each user
18 accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer
19 device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the
20 global communications network.

21
22 10. A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of
23 parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:
24 calculating, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, a
25 dimensional weight for a particular parcel for each carrier from a plurality of carriers
26 according to dimensional weight calculation rules for each of the plurality of carriers,
27 wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics input by the
28 particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global
29 communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device

1 having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

2
3 11. The method of Claim 10, said method further comprising:
4 comparing the calculated dimensional weight of the particular parcel calculated for
5 each carrier to a set of dimensional weight limitations for the carrier;
6 identifying as a supporting carrier each carrier for which the calculated dimensional
7 weight of the particular parcel calculated for the carrier does not exceed a set of dimensional
8 weight limitations for the carrier.

9
10 12. The method of Claim 11, said method further comprising:
11 calculating for each of a plurality of services offered by each supporting carrier a
12 shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel.

13
14 13. The method of Claim 12, said method further comprising:
15 calculating the shipping rate for the particular parcel for each service offered by each
16 supporting carrier according to a set of parcel shipping pricing rules for each particular
17 service offered by the particular supporting carrier as applied to the set of parcel
18 specifications and to the calculated dimensional weight for the particular parcel and as
19 applied to an origin zip code and an exemplary destination zip code input by the particular
20 user.

21
22 14. The method of Claim 13, said method further comprising:-
23 generating an online comparison display of the calculated shipping rates to a display
24 monitor configured with the client computer device of the particular user.

25
26 15. A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for
27 execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by
28 any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:
29 a set of program instructions for applying, in response to a request by any particular

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1 user of a plurality of users, dimensional weight calculation rules for each of a plurality of
2 carriers to a set of parcel specifications for a particular parcel input by the particular
3 requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global
4 communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device
5 having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.
6

7 16. A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for
8 execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by
9 any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

10 a set of program instructions for identifying, in response to a request by any particular
11 user of a plurality of users, each carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a
12 particular parcel wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel
13 characteristics, wherein said set of parcel characteristics translate into a particular calculated
14 dimensional weight according to dimensional weight calculation rules for each of the
15 plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global
16 communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device
17 having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.
18

19 17. A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for
20 execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by
21 any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

22 a set of program instructions for calculating, in response to a request by any particular
23 user of a plurality of users, a dimensional weight for a particular parcel for each carrier from
24 a plurality of carriers according to dimensional weight calculation rules for each of the
25 plurality of carriers, wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel
26 characteristics input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the
27 computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each
28 user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global
29 communications network.

1 18. The computer program product of Claim 17, said computer program product
2 further comprising:

3 a set of program instructions for comparing the calculated dimensional weight of the
4 particular parcel calculated for each carrier to a set of dimensional weight limitations for the
5 carrier;

6 a set of program instructions for identifying as a supporting carrier each carrier for
7 which the calculated dimensional weight of the particular parcel calculated for the carrier
8 does not exceed a set of dimensional weight limitations for the carrier.
9

10 19. The computer program product of Claim 18, said computer program product
11 further comprising:

12 a set of program instructions for calculating for each of a plurality of services offered
13 by each supporting carrier a shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel.
14

15 20. The computer program product of Claim 19, said computer program product
16 further comprising:

17 a set of program instructions for calculating the shipping rate for the particular parcel
18 for each service offered by each supporting carrier according to a set of parcel shipping
19 pricing rules for each particular service offered by the particular supporting carrier as applied
20 to the set of parcel specifications and to the calculated dimensional weight for the particular
21 parcel and as applied to an origin zip code and an exemplary destination zip code input by the
22 particular user.

23
24 21. The computer program product of Claim 20, said computer program product
25 further comprising:

26 a set of program instructions for generating an online comparison display of the
27 calculated shipping rates to a display monitor configured with the client computer device of
28 the particular user.
29

1 22. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management
2 computer system programmed to:

3 apply, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, Billable
4 weight determination rules for each of a plurality of carriers to a set of parcel specifications
5 for a particular parcel input by the particular requesting user and to a dimensional weight for
6 the particular parcel determined by the computer system, wherein each user accesses the
7 computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each
8 user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global
9 communications network.

10
11 23. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management
12 computer system programmed to:

13 identify, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, each
14 carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a particular parcel wherein the
15 particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics and a dimensional weight
16 calculated by the computer system for each carrier, wherein said set of parcel characteristics
17 and said dimensional weight for each carrier translate into a particular determined billable
18 weight according to billable weight determination rules for each of the plurality of carriers,
19 wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network
20 using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual
21 electronic connection to the global communications network.

22
23 24. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management
24 computer system programmed to:

25 determine, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, a
26 billable weight for a particular parcel for each carrier from a plurality of carriers according to
27 billable weight determination rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein the particular
28 parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics input by the particular requesting user
29 and by a dimensional weight calculated by the computer system for each carrier, wherein

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1 each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client
2 computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection
3 to the global communications network.

4
5 25. The shipping management computer system of Claim 24, said shipping
6 management computer system further programmed to:
7 identify as a supporting carrier each carrier that supports shipping of the particular
8 parcel according to a set of acceptable parcel characteristics rules for each particular carrier.

9
10 26. The shipping management computer system of Claim 25, said shipping
11 management computer system further programmed to:
12 calculate for each of a plurality of services offered by each supporting carrier a
13 shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel.

14
15 27. The shipping management computer system of Claim 26, said shipping
16 management computer system ifurther programmed to:
17 calculate the shipping rate for the particular parcel for each service offered by each
18 supporting carrier according to a set of parcel shipping pricing rules for each particular
19 service offered by the particular supporting carrier as applied to the set of parcel
20 specifications and to the determined billable weight for the particular parcel and as applied to
21 an origin zip code and an exemplary destination zip code input by the particular user.

22
23 28. The shipping management computer system of Claim 27, said shipping
24 management computer system further programmed to:
25 generate an online comparison display of the calculated shipping rates to a display
26 monitor configured with the client computer device of the particular user.

27
28 29. A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of
29 parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:

1 applying, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users,
2 Billable weight determination rules for each of a plurality of carriers to a set of parcel
3 specifications for a particular parcel input by the particular requesting user and to a
4 dimensional weight for the particular parcel determined by the computer system, wherein
5 each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client
6 computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection
7 to the global communications network.
8

9 30. A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of
10 parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:

11 identifying, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, each
12 carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a particular parcel wherein the
13 particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics and a dimensional weight
14 calculated by the computer system for each carrier, wherein said set of parcel characteristics
15 and said dimensional weight for each carrier translate into a particular determined billable
16 weight according to billable weight determination rules for each of the plurality of carriers,
17 wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network
18 using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual
19 electronic connection to the global communications network.
20

21 31. A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of
22 parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:

23 determining, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, a
24 billable weight for a particular parcel for each carrier from a plurality of carriers according to
25 billable weight determination rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein the particular
26 parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics input by the particular requesting user
27 and by a dimensional weight calculated by the computer system for each carrier, wherein
28 each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client
29 computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection

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1 to the global communications network.

2
3 32. The method of Claim 31, said method further comprising:
4 identifying as a supporting carrier each carrier that supports shipping of the particular
5 parcel according to a set of acceptable parcel characteristics rules for each particular carrier.

6
7 33. The method of Claim 32, said method further comprising:
8 calculating for each of a plurality of services offered by each supporting carrier a
9 shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel.

10
11 34. The method of Claim 33, said method further comprising:
12 calculating the shipping rate for the particular parcel for each service offered by each
13 supporting carrier according to a set of parcel shipping pricing rules for each particular
14 service offered by the particular supporting carrier as applied to the set of parcel
15 specifications and to the determined billable weight for the particular parcel and as applied to
16 an origin zip code and an exemplary destination zip code input by the particular user.

17
18 35. The method of Claim 34, said method further comprising:
19 generating an online comparison display of the calculated shipping rates to a display
20 monitor configured with the client computer device of the particular user.

21
22 36. A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for
23 execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by
24 any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:
25 a set of program instructions for applying, in response to a request by any particular
26 user of a plurality of users, Billable weight determination rules for each of a plurality of
27 carriers to a set of parcel specifications for a particular parcel input by the particular
28 requesting user and to a dimensional weight for the particular parcel determined by the
29 computer system, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global

1 communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device
2 having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.
3

4 37. A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for
5 execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by
6 any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

7 a set of program instructions for identifying, in response to a request by any particular
8 user of a plurality of users, each carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a
9 particular parcel wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel
10 characteristics and a dimensional weight calculated by the computer system for each carrier,
11 wherein said set of parcel characteristics and said dimensional weight for each carrier
12 translate into a particular determined billable weight according to billable weight
13 determination rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the
14 computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each
15 user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global
16 communications network.
17

18 38. A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for
19 execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by
20 any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

21 a set of program instructions for determining, in response to a request by any
22 particular user of a plurality of users, a billable weight for a particular parcel for each carrier
23 from a plurality of carriers according to billable weight determination rules for each of the
24 plurality of carriers, wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel
25 characteristics input by the particular requesting user and by a dimensional weight calculated
26 by the computer system for each carrier, wherein each user accesses the computer system
27 over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client
28 computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications
29 network.

1 39. The computer program product of Claim 38, said computer program product
2 further comprising:

3 a set of program instructions for identifying as a supporting carrier each carrier that
4 supports shipping of the particular parcel according to a set of acceptable parcel
5 characteristics rules for each particular carrier.
6

7 40. The computer program product of Claim 39, said computer program product
8 further comprising:

9 a set of program instructions for calculating for each of a plurality of services offered
10 by each supporting carrier a shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel.
11

12 41. The computer program product of Claim 40, said computer program product
13 further comprising:

14 a set of program instructions for calculating the shipping rate for the particular parcel
15 for each service offered by each supporting carrier according to a set of parcel shipping
16 pricing rules for each particular service offered by the particular supporting carrier as applied
17 to the set of parcel specifications and to the determined billable weight for the particular
18 parcel and as applied to an origin zip code and an exemplary destination zip code input by the
19 particular user.
20

21 42. The computer program product of Claim 41, said computer program product
22 further comprising:

23 a set of program instructions for generating an online comparison display of the
24 calculated shipping rates to a display monitor configured with the client computer device of
25 the particular user.
26

27 43. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management
28 computer system programmed to:

29 apply, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, ratable

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1 weight determination rules for each of a plurality of carriers to a set of parcel specifications
2 for a particular parcel input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the
3 computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each
4 user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global
5 communications network.

6
7 44. The shipping management computer system of Claim 43, said shipping
8 management computer system further programmed to:
9 identify, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, each
10 carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a particular parcel wherein the
11 particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics, wherein said set of parcel
12 characteristics translate into a particular ratable weight according to dimensional weight
13 calculation rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer
14 system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user
15 client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global
16 communications network.

17
18 45. The shipping management computer system of Claim 44, said shipping
19 management computer system further programmed to:
20 determine, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, a
21 ratable weight for a particular parcel for each carrier from a plurality of carriers according to
22 ratable weight determination rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein the particular
23 parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics input by the particular requesting
24 user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network
25 using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual
26 electronic connection to the global communications network.

27
28 46. The shipping management computer system of Claim 43 wherein the ratable
29 weight is a dimensional weight.

1 47. The shipping management computer system of Claim 43 wherein the ratable
2 weight is a billable weight.

3
4 48. A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of
5 parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:
6 applying, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, ratable
7 weight determination rules for each of a plurality of carriers to a set of parcel specifications
8 for a particular parcel input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the
9 computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each
10 user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global
11 communications network.

12
13 49. The method of Claim 48, said method further comprising:
14 identifying, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, each
15 carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a particular parcel wherein the
16 particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics, wherein said set of parcel
17 characteristics translate into a particular ratable weight according to dimensional weight
18 calculation rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer
19 system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user
20 client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global
21 communications network.

22
23 50. The method of Claim 49, said method further comprising:
24 determining, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, a
25 ratable weight for a particular parcel for each carrier from a plurality of carriers according to
26 ratable weight determination rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein the particular
27 parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics input by the particular requesting
28 user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network
29 using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual

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1 electronic connection to the global communications network.

2
3 51. The method of Claim 48 wherein the ratable weight is a dimensional weight.

4
5 52. The method of Claim 48 wherein the ratable weight is a billable weight.

6
7 53. A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for
8 execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by
9 any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

10 a set of program instructions for applying, in response to a request by any particular
11 user of a plurality of users, ratable weight determination rules for each of a plurality of
12 carriers to a set of parcel specifications for a particular parcel input by the particular
13 requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global
14 communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device
15 having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

16
17 54. The computer program product of Claim 53, said computer program product
18 further comprising:

19 a set of program instructions for identifying, in response to a request by any particular
20 user of a plurality of users, each carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a
21 particular parcel wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel
22 characteristics, wherein said set of parcel characteristics translate into a particular ratable
23 weight according to dimensional weight calculation rules for each of the plurality of carriers,
24 wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network
25 using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual
26 electronic connection to the global communications network.

27
28 55. The computer program product of Claim 54, said computer program product
29 further comprising:

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1 a set of program instructions for determining, in response to a request by any
2 particular user of a plurality of users, a ratable weight for a particular parcel for each carrier
3 from a plurality of carriers according to ratable weight determination rules for each of the
4 plurality of carriers, wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel
5 characteristics input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the
6 computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each
7 user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global
8 communications network.

9
10 56. The computer program product of Claim 53 wherein the ratable weight is a
11 dimensional weight.

12
13 57. The computer program product of Claim 53 wherein the ratable weight is a
14 billable weight.

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